

Army Curbs Spying on Civilians

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After a long controversy, Secretary of the Army Howard H. Callaway has ordered a curb on spying by Army intelligence on U.S. civilians.

The new order would forbid any spying of the kind allegedly conducted against a group of Americans who supported the 1972 Democratic presidential candidacy of Sen. George McGovern while they were living in Berlin.

But the order stops short of an outright ban on Army surveillance of U.S. civilians.

Under its terms, Army intelligence still may carry out investigations of U.S. civilians working for the Defense Department abroad.

Surveillance of civilians not affiliated with the Defense Department also is permitted, but only if there is "substantial evidence" of illegal activities threatening Army troops, property or functions.

Even in such cases, Callaway directed that the Army should investigate only when civilian government agencies such as the FBI are unable to do so.

The Army said Callaway was giving his close personal attention to insure strict compliance with the new order, which became effective Oct. 1.

The new restrictions were disclosed when the Army was asked about the filing of an affidavit in U.S. District Court here last week in connection with a suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The ACLU and others sued in an effort to get the court to declare Army surveillance activities illegal.